

### DECAYED TEETH AND CHILDREN'S DISEASES

That decayed teeth are very strong predisposing causes to the "catching" of measles, scarlet fever, pneumonia, mumps, and other childish diseases is strongly urged by the U. S. Public Health Service, which cites very considerable reductions in those diseases in cities where dental clinics have been established in the schools. At Bridgeport, Conn., for instance, diphtheria has been lessened 8 per cent. At an orphanage in Boston these diseases, which had annually afflicted about one-third of the 325 inmates, practically disappeared after eight months' dental work. The absorption of pus from rotting teeth had weakened the children and made them easy victims to disease germs, and the cleaning up of this increased their powers of resistance.

### NEW PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITALS

Washington, May — The hospital program of the U. S. Public Health Service is moving rapidly. Nine new hospitals, which will accommodate more than three thousand patients, are now being put into shape for early occupancy. Three of these, in Iowa, Montana, and Oregon, with a capacity for about five hundred patients, should be in operation within two months. Others will not be ready for a longer time. Especially will this be the case with three Army reservations, two of which had been abandoned for ten to twenty months, which were specifically transferred to the Service by Act of Congress.

The Colfax hotel, at Colfax, Iowa, a leased building with 130 acres of grounds, is being fitted to receive two hundred patients. The Army hospital at Fort William Henry Harrison, near Helena, Mont., will be opened with one hundred general patients, but may later be greatly expanded. Additional money will be necessary to fit the buildings at Dawson Springs, near Hopkinsville, Ky., for maximum usefulness; but the necessary funds are expected to be forthcoming and the hospital to be opened with five hundred tuberculosis patients within five months. The Hahnemann hospital, at Portland, Oregon, should be ready for 164 general patients by July 1, and the Speedway Hospital, at Chicago, for one thousand general patients by August 1.

Of the three Army posts specifically turned over by Congress, that at Fort Walla Walla is attractively situated near Walla Walla, Wash., on a low plateau near the junction of the fruit and wheat belts. The post has been abandoned for a year and, except for two brick barracks, its buildings are in bad condition and must be rebuilt. It will shelter 284 tuberculosis patients.

Fort McKenzie, one mile northwest of Sheridan, Wyo., is pleasantly situated against a northern shield of mountains. Its brick buildings surround a fine parade ground, once planted with trees, which, however, have suffered severely from lack of irrigation since the post was abandoned. Most of the region is sparsely timbered.

The red brick buildings of Fort Logan H. Roots, near Little Rock, Ark., stand on a bluff overlooking the Arkansas River. During the war some temporary wooden buildings were erected, but most of these have been removed.

Fort McKenzie and Roots are each planned to accommodate more than six hundred nervous-mental cases. Each of the three posts is likely to be ready in less than six months.

A naval station, at Gulfport, Miss., has just been taken over from the Navy by the Public Health Service and will be utilized as a hospital or home either by the Service or by some other branch of the government.

### SPARE THE OX

According to a bulletin just issued by the U. S. Public Health Service, a French investigator has discovered that the malaria mosquito prefers cattle to human beings and will feed on them whenever she can, thus materially reducing the human malaria rate in several parts of France. He suggests fitting up stables as gigantic mosquito traps with cattle for bait. Here's a chance for the antivivisectionists and anti-vaccinationists to start a movement under the slogan, "Spare the ox; let the mosquito bite your own child."

## Commission on Milk Standards

### UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

The number of bacteria in milk depends on dirt, temperature, and age, says the United States Public Health Service. Specific disease bacteria are not often present, and the difficulty of detecting them by laboratory methods renders these of little value in guarding milk against specific disease. The only practical safeguard is by medical, veterinary, and sanitary inspection and by pasteurization.

Bacterial counts indicate the safety and the "decency" of milk. Small numbers of bacteria indicate fresh milk, produced under clean conditions and kept cool; large numbers indicate dirty, warm, or stale milk.

Bacteria in milk are related to infant mortality. Children fed on milk containing few bacteria show a lower death rate than those fed on milk containing many. Bacteria harmless to adults may cause infant diarrhea, and milk containing large numbers is apt to contain species capable of setting up intestinal inflammation in infants.

In making the counts the methods of the American Public Health Association Laboratory Section should be used. Extensive study justifies the conclusion that bacterial analyses of duplicate samples of milk by routine methods in different laboratories vary about 28 per cent. Tests of five samples will give fairly accurate results and will always permit any milk to be accurately graded. At least four of the five should show fewer bacteria than the maximum allowed for the grade awarded. Grading should never be based on a single sample.

The grading of milk by the bacterial tests greatly modifies milk inspection by public health officials. Bacterial tests should precede dairy inspection, for they will point the way to insanitary milk. The milk inspection service should be reorganized, and it and the laboratory service co-ordinated under one head.

The Commission on Milk Standards, which was established in March, 1911, by the New York Milk Committee, a voluntary organization, consists, at the present time, of seven public health officials, six bacteriologists, four chemists, and two agricultural experts.

## Notices

### SECTION ON ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

The Council of the State Medical Society has approved the establishment of a Section on Orthopedic Surgery and has appointed for the first year's work of this section, Dr. W. W. Richardson of Los Angeles, chairman, and Dr. G. J. McChesney of San Francisco, secretary. In the 1922 program special time will be allotted to this section. Members interested in presenting papers should correspond with either Dr. Richardson or Dr. McChesney.